

# THE CHI BETA PHI RECORD



2006

**THE  
CHI BETA PHI  
RECORD  
2006**

The Chi Beta Phi Record is published annually by the Grand Chapter of the  
Chi Beta Phi National Science Honorary and is the official publication of Chi Beta Phi.

Editor ..... William J. Pohley

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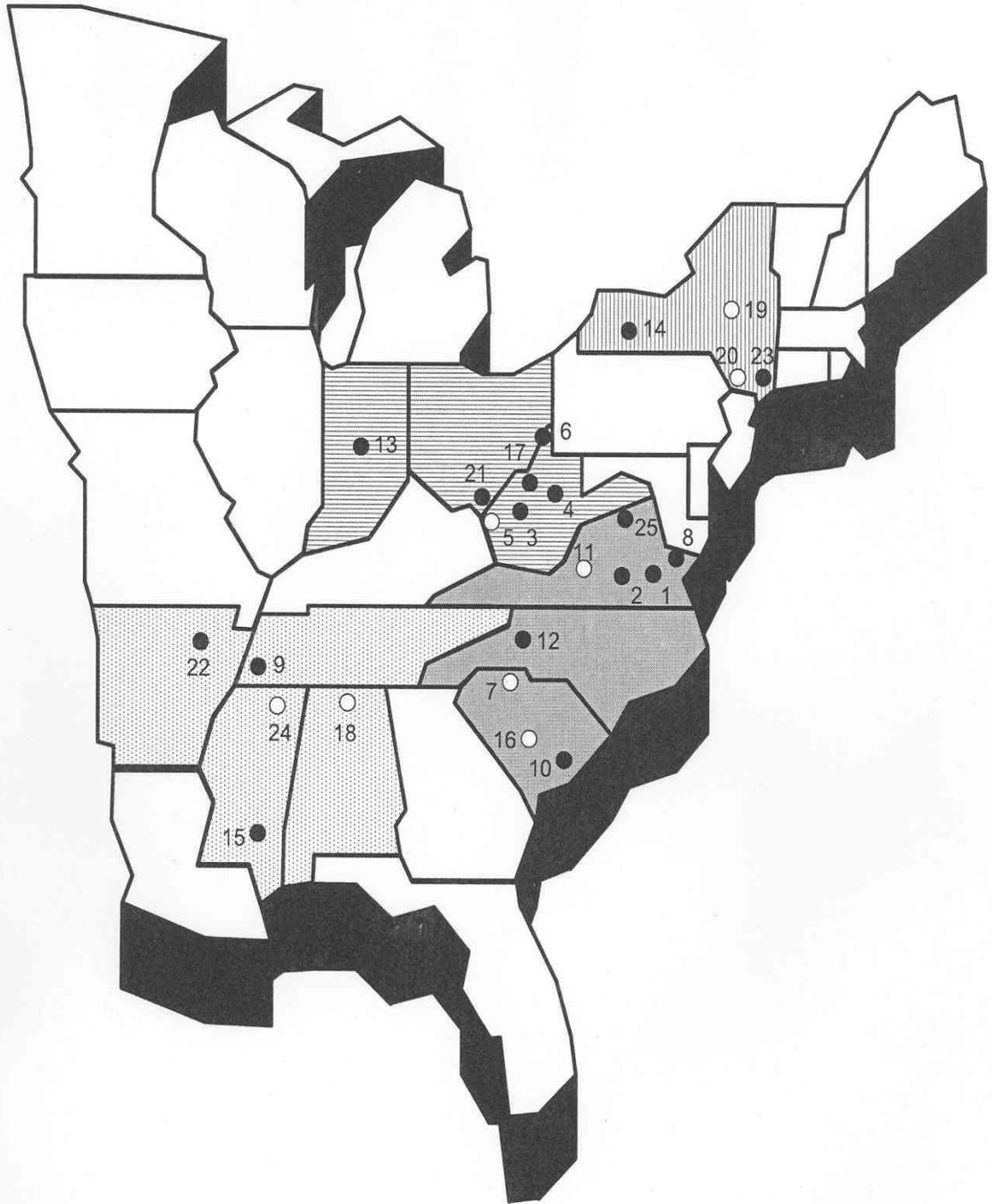
# *CHI BETA PHI*

IS A NATIONAL SCIENCE HONORARY  
WHOSE PURPOSE IS  
TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN SCIENCE  
AND  
TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO SCHOLARLY ATTAINMENT  
IN AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
FIELDS OF SCIENCE

*Scientia Omnia Vincit*

**SCIENCE CONQUERS ALL**

# Chi Beta Phi Chapters



● = Active

○ = Inactive

## Chi Beta Phi Chapters

Alpha	1916	Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia
Gamma	1921	Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Virginia
Epsilon	1923	University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia
Zeta	1925	Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia
Kappa	1925	Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
Rho	1935	West Liberty State College, West Liberty, West Virginia
Theta Sigma	1941	Limestone College, Gaffney, South Carolina
Kappa Sigma	1945	The University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia
Phi	1947	University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee
Chi	1948	Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina
Omega	1948	Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia
Alpha Beta	1952	Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, North Carolina
Alpha Delta	1953	Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana
Alpha Epsilon	1954	Keuka College, Keuka Park, New York
Alpha Zeta	1955	William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Alpha Eta	1956	Newberry College, Newberry, South Carolina
Alpha Iota	1964	Glenville State College, Glenville, West Virginia
Alpha Kappa	1964	Athens State College, Athens, Alabama
Epsilon Sigma	1965	State University of Oneonta, Oneonta, New York
Alpha Xi	1969	St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York
Alpha Pi	1970	University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, Ohio
Alpha Rho	1973	Arkansas College, Batesville, Arkansas
Alpha Sigma	1974	Molloy College, Rockville Centre, New York
Alpha Tau	1984	Rust College, Holly Springs, Mississippi
Alpha Upsilon	1984	Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia

## **Grand Chapter Officers 2004 – 2006**

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **HISTORIAN/MARSHALL**

Nathanael Mason  
Post Office Box 235  
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### **WEBPAGE**

[www.franklincollege.edu/bioweb/CBP](http://www.franklincollege.edu/bioweb/CBP)

## **59<sup>th</sup> Chi Beta Phi National Conference Host 2006**

The Zeta Chapter of Davis & Elkins College hosted the 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Elkins, WV on September 22-23, 2006. The Zeta Chapter's affiliation with Davis & Elkins College dates to 1925, with a period of inactivity in the mid-1990's and reestablishment in 2004. A social was held the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> in the historic Icehouse on campus. The Icehouse is a three-story cylindrical structure of stone that was originally built in the late 1800's by Senator Stephen B. Elkins as a place to store ice in the summer. It was refurbished in 1969 and is now a campus pub.

Davis & Elkins is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and was established through the influence of former United States Senators Henry G. Davis and Stephen B. Elkins. The first classes were held on September 21, 1904. Views of the Appalachian Mountains grace the intimate, wooded campus, which includes 20 major buildings on 170 acres. Most of the buildings are clustered together on a low ridge overlooking the city of Elkins. Farther back on the north section of the campus are Booth Library, Eshleman Science Center, Robbins Chapel, the Hermanson Center–Auditorium complex, and the athletic fields. The Davis & Elkins Historic District was established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and includes National Historic Landmarks that house both academic and administrative facilities.

The business sessions and presentations were held in the Eshleman Science Center. The Science Center, completed in 1972, is named in memory of the late Charles I. and Betty E. Eshleman, generous benefactors of the college. The building houses the College's natural and physical sciences, nursing, computer science and math departments. A planetarium, greenhouse, multipurpose 120-seat lecture hall, seminar rooms, classrooms, herbarium, computer center and laboratories add to the versatility of Eshleman Science Center.

Dinner was held at the Graceland Inn and many guests stayed at the Byrd Conference Center. Graceland Inn and Robert C. Byrd Conference Center, comprising Graceland mansion and Allen Hall, opened in July 1996. Graceland is a stone mansion that was completed in 1893 as the summer home of Senator Henry G. Davis. It was named for Davis's younger daughter, Grace. The mansion is constructed of native timbers and granite in the Norman French style of architecture. Windows were designed by workmen from Tiffany's; a tiled fireplace, surmounted by a wooden mantle supported by Corinthian columns, is a dominant feature on the first floor. Enjoyed by two generations of the Davis family, the mansion was acquired in 1941 by the West Virginia Presbyterian Educational Fund, and in 1945, the building and immediate grounds were presented to Davis & Elkins College. Until 1970 it was used for student housing. It has been completely restored and is now operated as a country inn and restaurant, both of which are open to the public. Graceland contains the Erickson Alumni Center and is a National Historic Landmark.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Alton Byers, Director of the Research and Education Program of The Mountain Institute (TMI). His talk entitled "Historical and Contemporary Landscape Change in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Khumbu, Nepal: Methods and Conservation Applications" highlighted his work in Nepal working with the local people and government agencies to preserve and document the natural environment while providing economic opportunities for the people in the region. The Mountain Institute is an international non-profit organization dedicated to conservation, community development, and cultural preservation in the Andes, Appalachian, Himalayan, and other mountain ranges of the world. TMI has their Appalachian Mountains office on the D&E campus and the Spruce Knob Mountain Center is located nearby in Pendleton County.

# Agenda of the Chi Beta Phi 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference

September 22 - 23, 2006  
Zeta Chapter Host  
Davis and Elkins College  
Elkins, WV

## Friday, September 22

9:00 p.m. Social at the Icehouse (Zeta Chapter invites their guests to join them at the campus pub for refreshments.)

## Saturday, September 23

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Refreshments, Lobby of Eshleman Science Center

9:00 – 10:45 a.m. Session I, Science Center 400  
Call to Order & Opening Prayer  
Roll Call of Chapters & Proxy Assignments  
Chapter Reports  
Report of the National Officers  
Committee Assignments  
Awards  
Presentations  
Election

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break, Lobby of Eshleman Science Center

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Committee Meetings

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch – Campus Cafeteria (\$6.25 payable to Parkhurst) or on own

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Session II, Science Center 400  
Conclusion of Business – Old, New  
Awards Committee Report to the President  
Election of National Officers

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Presentation of Papers

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Break

6:00 p.m. Dinner – Graceland Inn (menu enclosed, price payable to Inn)  
Awards and Announcements  
Speaker: Dr. Alton Byers, The Mountain Institute

## Roll Call of Chapters/Proxies

Chi Beta Phi 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference  
September 23, 2006

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Chap. Rept.</u>	<u>Delegate or Proxy</u>
Alpha	-	-
Gamma	+	Ben Smith (Kappa Sigma)
Epsilon	+	John Robinson
Zeta	+	Michelle Mabry
Kappa	-	-
Rho	-	-
Kappa Sigma	+	Krista Edelman
Phi	+	Stephan Spencer
Chi	-	-
Alpha Delta	+	Bill Pohley
Alpha Zeta	-	-
Alpha Eta	-	-
Alpha Iota	+	Sarah Ramezan
Alpha Xi	+	Sally Gallagher (Kappa Sigma)
Alpha Rho	+	Paul Peck (Alpha Iota)
Alpha Sigma	+	Shawn Stover (Zeta)

## Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference

Following refreshments provided by the hosting Zeta Chapter, President Pohley called the 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference to order at 9:00 AM.

Dr. Michelle Mabry, faculty advisor of Zeta Chapter, read the traditional Chi Beta Phi prayer. Dr. Mabry announced an exhibit in the college library of photographs and artifacts from the college's WWII experience. She also announced that the host chapter was raffling off a basket of Chi Beta Phi and other items.

The roll call of chapters followed. If a chapter was called and there was no representative present but a proxy had been permitted with the Chapter Report, the chapter was assigned a proxy and considered present. A quorum was present. The Chapters present and their delegate or proxy were as follows:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Delegate or Proxy</u>
<u>Gamma</u>	<u>Ben Smith (Kappa Sigma)</u>
<u>Epsilon</u>	<u>John Robinson</u>
<u>Zeta</u>	<u>Michelle Mabry</u>
<u>Kappa Sigma</u>	<u>Krista Edelman</u>
<u>Phi</u>	<u>Stephan Spencer</u>
<u>Alpha Delta</u>	<u>Bill Pohley</u>
<u>Alpha Iota</u>	<u>Sarah Ramezan</u>
<u>Alpha Xi</u>	<u>Sally Gallagher (Kappa Sigma)</u>
<u>Alpha Rho</u>	<u>Paul Peck (Alpha Iota)</u>
<u>Alpha Sigma</u>	<u>Shawn Stover (Zeta)</u>

The Chapter Reports were then presented. President Pohley commented on the value of sharing the reports from chapters. The chapters and the presenters were: Gamma (Ben Smith), Epsilon (John Robinson), Zeta (Jenny Sisler), Kappa Sigma (Krista Edelman), Phi (Stephan Spencer), Alpha Delta (Bill Pohley), Alpha Iota (Sarah Ramezan), Alpha Xi (Sally Gallagher), Alpha Rho (Paul Peck), Alpha Sigma (Shawn Stover).

The reports of the National Board Officers then followed. All officers were present except for Secretary Amanda Short and Historian/Marshall Nathanael Mason.

After the Officer reports, committees were then assigned. The committees were the Awards Committee and the Presentations Committee. President Pohley and Treasurer Meadors pointed out the duties of the committees. The committees were comprised as follows:

Awards Committee: Dr. Judy Crissman (Chair), Stephan Spencer (Phi), Amanda Spriggs (Epsilon), Sally Gallagher (Kappa Sigma).

Presentations Committee: Dr. Bill Pohley (Chair), Krista Edelman (Kappa Sigma), Ben Smith (Kappa Sigma), Sarah Ramezan (Alpha Iota).

Elections Committee: Professor Paul Peck (Chair), Dr. John Robinson (Epsilon), Jessica Hammons (Epsilon).

After a short break, the group reconvened at 10:30 AM and then broke up into committees which were to complete their business by 11:45. Lunch was in the D&E cafeteria and the afternoon session convened and was called to order at 12:50 PM.

President Pohley asked if there was any old business and none was brought up. The awards committee had completed their work and the award announcements were to be made after the evening dinner. Professor Peck reported the results of the Election Committee. The slate presented was:

President – Michelle Mabry, Zeta Chapter  
Vice President – Bill Pohley, Alpha Delta Chapter  
Treasurer – C. T. Meadors, Epsilon Chapter  
Secretary – Paul Peck, Alpha Iota Chapter  
Historian/Marshall – Crystal Bennett, Epsilon Chapter

The slate was moved by C. T. Meadors and seconded by Paul Peck. The slate was accepted unanimously by those present.

The presentation of science papers then followed:

“Effects of Secondary Succession on Plant and Soil Processes” presented by Crystal Bennett

“The Effects of an Invasive Tree on the Biodiversity and Biomass of Understory Plants” presented by Sally Gallagher

“Locating Regions of Complex Zeros of the Mittag-Leffler Function” presented by Stephan Spencer  
Note: This research was supported, in part, by a Chi Beta Phi research grant.

“Phylogenetic Studies of Bat-Pollinated Flowers in Bignoniaceae” presented by Amanda Spriggs

“High Fat Diet Reduces Water Consumption and Urine Output in Lean Zucker Rats” presented by Jessica Frankel

“Expression & Purification of Recombinant Novel Testis-Specific MT13 Antigen for Contraceptive Vaccine Development” presented by Jessie Hammons

“Hinge Craniotomy for Cerebral Decompression” presented by Sara Lilly

“A Model System for Studying the Effect of  $\alpha$ -Synuclein and Other Aggregating Proteins on the Leakiness of the Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum” presented by James Reed

“A Case for Pro-oxidative Mitochondrial Dysfunction in fALS-linked SOD1 Mutations” presented by Jenny Sisler

“Evaluation of Anti-Cortactin pY421 and pS405 Antibodies” presented by Sunam Gurung

“Synthesis and Characterization of Size-controlled Gold Nanoparticles for Biological Application” presented by Elizabeth Gertz

At the conclusion of the papers, Dr. Pohley thanked the presenters for excellent papers. He concluded the conference and reminded the Presentation Committee to remain and also reminded everyone of the dinner at the Graceland Inn at 6:00 PM.

As dinner was concluding, Dr. Alton Byers, Director of the Research and Education Program of The Mountain Institute, presented his talk, “Historical and Contemporary Landscape Change in the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Khumbu, Nepal: Methods and Conservation Applications”.

Following the presentation, President Pohley announced the Awards recipients:

- Most Outstanding Chapter – Alpha Sigma
- Most Improved Chapter – Zeta
- Blackwell Distance Award – Epsilon
- National Key Award – Jennifer Sisler (Zeta)

The top paper presentations, as determined by the Presentations Committee, were then announced. Treasurer Meadors presented checks to the winners:

- First Place: \$100 Sally Gallagher (Kappa Sigma)
- Second Place: \$75 Stephan Spencer (Phi)
- Third Place: \$50 Jessica Frankel (Epsilon)

President Pohley thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. He welcomed Dr. Michelle Mabry as the next National President and then announced that the 59<sup>th</sup> National Conference was adjourned and wished everyone a safe trip home.

## Chapter Reports

### ALPHA DELTA

Chapter report for October 2005 through September 2006.

**Chapter:** Alpha Delta

**Mailing Address:** Chi Beta Phi  
c/o Dr. William J. Pohley  
Franklin College  
101 Branigin Boulevard  
Franklin, IN 46131

**Advisor:** Dr. Bill Pohley

**E-Mail Address:** wpohley@franklincollege.edu

<b>Current Officers:</b>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (if above unsatisfactory)</u>
President	Jill Carson	jcarson@franklincollege.edu
Vice-President	Shannon McMurray	smcmurray@franklincollege.edu
Treasurer	Rachel Hadley	rhadley@franklincollege.edu
Secretary	Sara Allen	sallen@franklincollege.edu

**Officers for next year if determined:** N/A.

**Current number of members:**

students - 14

faculty - 5

pledges - 0

active alumni - 0

**Frequency of meetings:** Monthly

**Function or purpose of Meetings:**

chapter business XX

fund raising \_\_\_\_\_

social \_\_\_\_\_

presentations \_\_\_\_\_

conference planning \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Presentations, lectures, seminars, etc. attended or as part of chapter meeting:**

**Activities relative to the Annual Theme:**

**Social Activities of Chapter:**

In the fall shortly after conference, the Chemistry members and Biology members entered a centerpiece contest sponsored by our alumni office. We tied for first place and used the money to host a Christmas party inviting all science majors. In the spring 2006, we had our annual initiation and welcomed 5 new members. Shortly after this, we had our annual dinner at Jimmy Buffett's Cheeseburger in Paradise. Our annual field trip was a canoe trip. We graduated 7 members for a net loss of two members.

**Honors Awarded to Chapter Members:**

Most members are on the dean's list every semester and many receive departmental honors or scholarships. At graduation and honors convocations, we garner a large percentage of awards.

## **Other Chapter Activities:**

### Efforts to reactivate a chapter or establish a new one:

We continue to look for schools at which Chi Beta Phi chapters might be appropriate.

### Fund raising:

Most of our money comes from our Student Congress. We are only required to allow our activities to be open to all members of the student body. Fund raising is discouraged on our campus.

### Service to school (include any awards by chapter):

We provide tutors for our Teaching and Learning Center to help other students in the sciences. Our President serves as a mentor for students in our General Chemistry classes. Many of our members, because of their outstanding academic performance, are selected to serve as ambassadors for our admissions, alumni, and development offices.

### Service to community:

### Trips or other activities:

We have a fall canoe trip planned to try to involve freshmen.

## **Please add any additional information or comments below.**

We are continuing to reexamine chapter GPA requirements as a result of the college instituting a plus/minus grading system several years ago. We currently require a 3.5 GPA in the sciences and a 3.0 GPA overall. A relatively large number of potential invitees in recent years have fallen short of the 3.5 minimum GPA by 0.1 - 0.2 points.

## Chapter Reports

### ALPHA IOTA

**Chapter report for** October 8, 2005 **through** September 23, 2006.

**Chapter:** Alpha Iota

**Mailing Address:** Alpha Iota Chapter  
C/O Paul Peck, Advisor  
Glennville State College  
200 High St.  
Glennville, WV 26351

**Advisor:** Paul Peck

**Email Address:** Paul.Peck@glennville.edu

<b>Current Officers:</b>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email address</u>
President	Sarah Ramezan	ramezan.sarah@glennville.edu
Vice-President	To be elected	
Secretary	Deb Starcher-Johnson	Deb.Starcher-Johnson@glennville.edu
Treasurer	Brenton Drake	drake.brenton@glennville.edu
Historian	Deb Starcher-Johnson	Deb.Starcher-Johnson@glennville.edu

**Officers for next year if determined:** N/A

**Current number of members:**

students 21 faculty 5 pledges 0 active alumni 4

**Frequency of meetings:** Monthly

**Function or purpose of meetings:**

chapter business X fund raising X social X  
presentations X conference planning X other

**Presentations, lectures, seminars, etc. attended or as part of chapter meeting:**

Professor John Curran (GSC): "Beyond Jethro" (remember "The Beverly Hillbillies"). His talk addressed changing expectations (standards) for student achievement in mathematics. (November 3, 2005)

Professor Rico Gazal (GSC): "Urban heat island effect and leaf phenology across the globe." He presented preliminary results of his project on the effect of urbanization on leaf phenology in different parts of the world. As part of promoting the project and training GLOBE teachers and students on budburst measurements, he showed some photographs of his trips to seven countries in Asia, Europe, North America and Africa in which his research took place. (March 14, 2006)

Professor Jill Haasch (GSC): Chimpanzees were taught American Sign Language at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her talk included why they were taught American Sign Language, how they got to Reno, Nevada, and the details of their living arrangements. She then discussed a project she completed on pretend play. The chimpanzees are now at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute in Ellensburg, Washington. She discussed how they arrived there, the chimpanzees' current living arrangements and their future. She finished her talk with a videotape of the chimpanzee, Washoe, signing. (April 27, 2006)

## Activities relative to the Annual Theme:

### Social Activities of Chapter:

Refreshments were served with the three presentations described above. Students from all science and math fields were invited to attend the presentations and reception.

### Honors Awarded to Chapter Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Honor</u>
Ashley Collins	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
Whitney Ginn	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
Chris Shane Groves	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
John M. Lamb	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
Jessica Nelson	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
Jessica Shreve	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
Wes Spinks	Chi Beta Phi Pin & Graduation Honor Cord
Jessica Nelson	GSC Student of the Year Nominee 2005-2006
Jessica Nelson	Chapter Key Award 2005-2006
Wes Spinks	Toth Science and Mathematics Award 2005-2006
Jessica Shreve	Wagner Science and Mathematics Award 2005-2006
Brenton Drake	Chisler Science and Math Scholarship (\$1,000) 2006-2007

### Other Chapter Activities:

#### Fund raising

The members sold 720 candy bars for a profit of \$190.00. This raised almost as much money as was needed for honor cords and pins.

#### Service to school (include any awards by chapter)

Organized three colloquia where new science faculty had opportunities to make presentations to Science & Math Dept. and Land Resources Dept. students. These are described above in the report.

#### Service to School and/or community

During the Fall 2005 semester, the Chapter organized a project that would help aid in Katrina Relief. The chapter sold 50-50 tickets across campus and in the Glenville community for approximately two weeks in late September and early October. The proceeds from the project (\$73.50) were given to the MENC Katrina Relief Project (a campus-wide effort involving many campus organizations).

Alpha Iota of Chi Beta Phi participated in a service project on April 26, 2006 that was part of National Volunteer Week. Paul Peck and Rachel Redick sorted through many books in the Science Hall Computer Lab and organized a space on the third floor to give many of them away. This aided in the moving for the evacuation of the Science Hall (part of renovation project). Other volunteers affiliated with Chi Beta Phi participated at Eberle Hall (Land Resources Department's building). Emily Browning, Lindsay Coleman, and Charles Sypolt picked up trash around Eberle Hall as well as on the tennis courts and on both sides of the Softball Field (near Eberle Hall). They worked on this beautification project from 2-3 pm. [There was an effort to have many campus organizations participate in National Volunteer Week; Alpha Iota Chapter was one of a small number of campus

organizations which participated.]

Trips or other activities

Chapter President Jessica Nelson, Advisor Paul Peck, and alumni member Nathanael Mason attended the Chi Beta Phi National Conference at the University of Charleston on October 7, 2005.

Jessica Shreve, with some assistance from Mary Harrison, designed and decorated a series of Chi Beta Phi bulletin boards on the third floor of Science Hall.

**Please add any additional information or comments below.**

The Chapter had another busy and productive year with a variety of activities. The following students and faculty were inducted as new members during the 2005-2006 academic year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE ELECTED</u>
Lindsay Coleman	September 13, 2005
John F. Curran (FACULTY)	September 13, 2005
Bruce Edinger (FACULTY)	September 13, 2005
Stephanie Fitch	September 13, 2005
Rico M. Gazal (FACULTY)	September 13, 2005
Rachel Ann Redick	September 13, 2005
Candice Silberschatz	September 13, 2005
Beth Anne Gregory	December 2005
Dustin Wagoner	December 6, 2005
Lee Barbo	February 2006
Jeremy Connolly	February 20, 2006
Stephen Matthew Smith	February 26, 2006
Ian Thomas Smith	February 28, 2006
Cecil Frank Nowlin, Jr.	March 14, 2006
Jonathan Perkins	March 15, 2006
Jamie M. Quinn	April 7, 2006
Christopher Yerkey	April 20, 2006
Curtis M. Holden	May 2, 2006

## Chapter Reports

### ALPHA RHO

Chapter report for Fall 2005 through Spring 2006.

**Mailing Address:** 2300 Highland Rd  
Batesville, AR 72501

**Advisor:** Stuart Hutton      **Email Address:** shutton@lyon.edu

**Current Officers:**

President	Madeline Homer	mh1578@lyon.edu
Vice-President	J.C. Douglas	jd1507@lyon.edu
Secretary	Mary-Margaret Nester	mn2599@lyon.edu
Treasurer	Tim Akin	ta9045@lyon.edu
Other	Rachel Miesner (Historian)	rm4369@lyon.edu

**Officers for next year if determined:** N/A

**Current number of members:** See below

**Frequency of meetings:** Monthly - Bimonthly

**Function or purpose of meetings:** Chapter Business and Presentations

**Presentations, lectures, seminars, etc. attended or as part of chapter meeting:**

**Activities relative to the Annual Theme:**

This past year was big for our chapter because our campus played host to the 90<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Academy of Science (AAS) Meeting. The Alpha Rho chapter volunteered their time and resources to the conference and many members also presented their current research and posters. Our guest speaker was Dr. Guy Consolmagno, Curator of Meteorites, Vatican Observatory, Rome. He gave a very interesting presentation entitled: *Pluto and Planets X: Is Pluto a Planet? And Why Does It Matter?*. Scientists, researchers, professors, and students came from all over the state of Arkansas to listen to talks, take part in workshops, compete in poster presentations, etc. Many of our own members took home awards at this conference for their presentations.

**Service to School:** The AAS meeting was open not only to the community but to the school as well.

**Honors Awarded to Chapter Members:**

Blake Phillips and Chris Estes - Book Award for Biology  
Valbona Bashari - Book Award for Chemistry  
John Allison - Book Award for Math  
Tyler Templeton and Tim Voris - Book Award for Physics  
Tony Fortune - Book Award for Computer Science  
Laura McWilliams - Chemistry Award  
Morgan Presley, Allyn Dodd, and Madeline Homer - Student Life Awards

J.C. Douglas - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Presentation for Biochemistry AAS  
Laura McWilliams - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Presentation for Physical Science AAS  
Katie Mclean - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Presentation for Biochemistry AAS  
Trey Holt - Green Chemistry Poster Award AAS

### **Service to the Community:**

Every year, most of our members participate in Lyon College Service Day in which students go out into the surrounding community and provide service to others. Most of our members also participate in the traditional Lyon College Scottish Festival that is hosted by the school every year to celebrate our school's Scottish history. As mentioned before, the AAS meeting was open to the public so that students and other interested citizens could get more of a feel for what science and research are really about. Also, many of our members volunteer to judge the local science fair that is hosted by our school every year.

### **Trips or other activities:**

Members attended the INBRE conference. Dr. Tim Lindblom, Katie Mclean, and Chris Estes attended the C. Elegans conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Stuart Hutton gave a presentation entitled: *Dielectric Relaxation in Mixed Solid Solutions of CuFeTAC* in Moscow, Russia.

### **Alpha Rho Chapter of Chi Beta Phi Members List**

#### Current Members (9)

Madeline Homer  
J.C. Douglas  
Mary-Margaret Nester  
Timothy Akin  
Rachel Miesner  
John Boling  
Trey Holt  
Danielle Bell  
Laura McWilliams

#### Graduated Members (9)

Blake Phillips  
Chris Estes  
Tyler Templeton  
Katie Mclean  
Rachel Nicholson  
Tony Fortune  
Ashley Turensky  
Sara Harvey  
Robert Kaligarouh

#### Faculty (10)

Dr. Dave Thomas  
Dr. Tim Lindblom  
Dr. Robert Gregerson  
Dr. Mark Schram  
Dr. Stuart Hutton  
Dr. Anthony Grafton  
Dr. David Pace  
Dr. Floyd Beckford  
Dr. Barry Gehm  
Dr. Jian Xu

#### Active Alumni (2)

Derinda Fair  
Judy Blackwell

## Chapter Reports

### ALPHA SIGMA

**Chapter report for September 2005 through September 2006.**

**Chapter:** Alpha Sigma

**Address:** Molloy College  
1000 Hempstead Avenue  
P.O. Box 5002  
Rockville Centre, NY 11571-5002

**Advisor:** Anthony J. Tolvo, Ph.D.

**Officers:** (September 2005 - September 2006)

President: Richard Gray

Vice-President: Brigitte Bishop

Secretary/Treasurer: MaryAnn Francis

**Officers:** (September 2006 - September 2007) - not yet determined

**Current number of members:**

Students: 9

Faculty: 8

Pledges: (none selected yet)

Active Alumni: 8

**Frequency of Meetings:** Monthly

**Function or purpose of meetings:**

- Chapter business
- Presentations
- Social
- Fund raising
- Field trips

**As part of Chapter meetings:**

- Discussions and readings on a variety of scientific topics including environmental biology, conservation, preservation of wetlands, ocean pollution, student membership in MACUB (Metropolitan Association of College and University Professors), and student membership in SPLASH (a local environmental group).

**On Campus Activities:**

- Chapter members participated as facilitators in the Molloy Science Fair in March 2005 and March 2006.
- "Healthy Snack" sale conducted for the Science Fair participants to raise money for the Orca project and other chapter expenses.
- Richard Gray performed a guitar/vocal solo for the Molloy Community to benefit our chapter on April 18, 2006.
- Presentation by Patricia Hennessy on "Aspects of InVitro Fertilization Techniques," Molloy College, Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Studies Annual Symposium, December 2005.
- Presentation by Alicia Curci on "Congenital Abnormalities in Dogs: A Study in Veterinary Medicine," Molloy College, Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Studies Annual Symposium, December 2005.

**Off-Campus Activities:**

- Attended workshops and symposia on environmental conservation, gene therapy and cancer.
- Donated from Chapter dues to the relief effort in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.
- LUPUS walk in New York City.
- NCSS Conference Attendee.
- Molloy Student Ambassador.
- Participated in the Annual New York State Beach Cleanup sponsored by the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society.
- Participated in Operation Splash, a Long Island marine environmental group.
- Represented Chi Beta Phi and Molloy College at the Harlem Science Fair, NY, NY in September 2005.
- Sponsored several field trips to "Bodies: The Exhibition" at the South Street Seaport, NYC, for the Molloy College Community [Dr. Tolvo is an ongoing, volunteer guide at the exhibit].

**Activities relative to annual theme for our Chapter: [Environmental Conservation]**

- We renewed our support of Orca research through our donation to the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor, WA.
- We planned a trip to the Norman Levy Park and Preserve (originally the Merrick, NY landfill but now a shoreline wildlife/conservation facility).
- We participated in the Annual New York State Beach Cleanup sponsored by the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society.

**Social Activities of the Chapter:**

- 13 new members were inducted, with pride, into our Chapter at a special ceremony prior to Honors Convocation on April 26, 2006:
  - Joseph Cohen
  - Thomas Coppola
  - Alicia Curci
  - Edward del Casino
  - Teny Eylers
  - Danielle Grace
  - Patricia Hennessy
  - Gina Marotto
  - Stephanie Miluso
  - George Morano
  - Kelli Pecora
  - Michael Teuan
  - Prof. Robert Link

Our Chi Beta Phi members also gave enthusiastic service to the Molloy Community through:

- ACE and other tutoring programs
- Pre-Med Club participation
- Molloy College Open Houses
- Blood Drives
- Molloy Student Government
- Freshman Orientation
- T3 (Teachers Teaching with Technology) Texas Instruments Regional Conference, October 2004
- The 50th Anniversary Celebration Events of Molloy College.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Tolvo, Ph.D.

# Chapter Reports

## ALPHA XI

**Chapter report for Jan. 2005 through Sept. 2006.**

**Chapter:** Alpha Xi

**Mailing Address:** bugman38@hotmail.com

**Advisor:** Dr. James E. Corrigan

**E-mail Address:** bugman38@hotmail.com

<b>Current Officers:</b>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
President	Joseph Pantaleo	jbp1423@aol.com
Vice-President	Wendy St. Juste	wstjuste@stfranciscollege.edu
Secretary	Nertila Canka	tilazona@msn.com
Treasurer	Maria Ferraro	rossatron@aol.com

**Officers for next year if determined:**

To be determined in late May - early June 2007.

**Current number of members:**

Students - 10          Faculty - 5 (honorary members)          Pledges - 0  
Active Alumni - 30 (total alumni = 300+)

**Frequency of meetings:** Monthly

**Function or purpose of meetings:**

chapter business \_\_\_\_\_ fund raising \_\_\_\_\_ social \_\_\_\_\_  
presentations XX conference planning \_\_\_\_\_ other XX

The main objective of the honor fraternity is to provide a tutorial service for first year biology and chemistry majors and career information.

**Presentations, lectures, seminars, etc. attended or as part of chapter meeting:**

The honor fraternity works in conjunction with the Science-Botanical Societies to provide fund-raising, guest lectures by alumni regarding career advancement in graduate and professional schools, as well as, career information in health-related courses (O.T, P.T., P.A., Med Tech and Nursing).

**Activities relative to the Annual Theme:** As stated above.

**Social Activities of Chapter:**

Limited to small collations with alumni after their career presentation. The number of presentations varies from five to twelve a year.

**Honors Awarded to Chapter Members:**

The vast majority of the alumni have achieved graduate level degrees (M.S. and/or Ph.D.) and those with professional degrees include the following - M.D., D.O., D.P.M., D.V.M., O.D., D.C. and D.P.T.

## **Other Chapter Activities:**

Efforts to reactivate a chapter or establish a new one:

We are holding on and attempting to grow in spite of serious problems.

Fund raising:

Very limited - with Science-Botanical Societies to sales of flowers at certain times of the year.

Service to school (include any awards by chapter):

Tutorials.

Service to community:

Trips or other activities:

Trips to Pfizer Pharmaceutical (alumni employed at Brooklyn plant), Brooklyn Brewery, New York Aquarium, and Botanical Gardens.

## **Please add any additional information or comments below.**

The honor fraternity has a very long and proud history at St. Francis College. It was founded in 1969 and celebrated 35 years of work at a men's basketball game in February 2005. While we have had difficulties, we still recruit very academically-strong candidates and will continue to do so.... as long as I am a faculty member.

Respectfully submitted,  
James E. Corrigan, Ph.D.  
Moderator

## **Chapter Reports**

### **EPSILON**

2005-2006

The first order of business for the new school year was inductions for new members. We had ten new members inducted into our chapter in the fall of 2005. This brought our total of active student members to twenty in addition to three faculty members. Currently, we have around sixteen interested students wanting to join our chapter. Inductions and elections for new officers will be held in early fall of this year.

Throughout the school year, we were involved in several on-campus activities, as well as, several off-campus involvements. On campus during the school year, we were able to construct and organize small study groups for students preparing to take the MCAT, PCAT, or other college admission exams. This study group met once or twice a week for students to receive subject help from others, exchange references, and act as a support system for each other. This study group continued until the April MCAT. In the spring, we were able to assist our financial status with an Easter raffle. Each member sold raffle tickets for students to win an Easter basket. In the fall, several students were able to assist local elementary schools as science fair judges. This event was fun for both the members and the elementary students involved. In the spring, several of our fellow classmates were in need of a tutor. Several Chi Beta members stepped in for the challenge.

This year, our chapter would like to become more involved with the local community. We would like to continue to judge elementary science fair competitions and branch into high schools in our local community as well. We plan to make our annual meetings more educational, with a different academic concentration each meeting. Our chapter plans to start the development of a program with kids interested in science. This program is still in the developmental stages; however, the overall principles behind the program would be to start kids interested in science at an early age, keep students interested in the field as they age, and assist in the subject as tutors. This year should be full of new experiences for our members that will challenge them in each step of the way. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

## Chapter Reports

### GAMMA

**Chapter report for May 2005 through April 2006.**

**Mailing address:** Chi Beta Phi  
c/o Dr. H. Sipe  
Dept. of Chemistry  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hampden-Sydney, VA 23943

**Advisor:** Dr. Herbert Sipe                      **Email:** [hsipe@hsc.edu](mailto:hsipe@hsc.edu)

**Current Officers:**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
President	William Bolton	<a href="mailto:boltonj@hsc.edu">boltonj@hsc.edu</a>
Vice President	Justin Azar	<a href="mailto:azarj@hsc.edu">azarj@hsc.edu</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Sohale Vu	<a href="mailto:vus@hsc.edu">vus@hsc.edu</a>

**Officers for next year not determined:** (elections in March)

**Current number of members:**        students - 10                      faculty & staff - 4

**Frequency of meetings:** Meetings are on an as needed basis. Two or three each year.

**Function or purpose of meetings:** Chapter business, Social

**Financial Report:**

We do not charge annual dues but five dollars was collected from each initiate to help fund a social picnic. Sixty-five dollars was spent on a picnic.

J.W. Bolton  
President, Gamma Chapter

# Chapter Reports

## KAPPA SIGMA

**Chapter Report for Fall 2005 through Fall 2006.**

**Chapter:** Kappa Sigma Chapter

**Advisors:** Judith Crissman, Stephen Fuller, and Marie Sheckels

**Mailing Address:** Judith Crissman  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Mary Washington  
1301 College Ave  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

### 2005-2006 Officers:

President: Paul Walsh  
Vice President: Cara Campbell  
Secretary: Sushmita Bardwaj  
Treasurer: Absar Fakhri  
Historian: Krista Edelman

### 2006-2007 Officers:

President: Krista Edelman  
Vice President: Ben Smith  
Secretary: Sarah Gallagher  
Treasurer: Erin Keegan  
Historian: Corinda Pippins

### Current number of members:

Students 60      Faculty 3      Pledges      Active alumni

**Frequency of meetings:** 2 per semester

### Function or purpose of meetings:

chapter business   X        fund raising             social         
presentations             conference planning             other       

### Honors Awarded to Chapter Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Honor</u>
Asako Kubota	Earl Insley Chi Beta Phi Scholarship
Mahvash Mujahid	Earl Insley Chi Beta Phi Scholarship
Paul Walsh	Earl Insley Chi Beta Phi Scholarship

## Chapter Reports

### PHI

The Phi Chapter at the University of Memphis held its annual initiation on April 3, 2006 and initiated 19 new members. The initiation address was given by Dr. Kristin Kramer, an Assistant Professor of Biology. Her talk was titled "What Controls Monogamy: The Neuroendocrine Control of Social Behavior in Mammals".

The new officers for the 2006-2007 school year were installed and are:

President	Stephan Spencer
Vice President	Sarah Dickerson
Treasurer	Matthew Teal
Secretary	Trenton Ensley

Joining our faculty advisor Dr. John W. Hanneken from the Physics Department, Dr. David A. Freeman from the Biology Department has agreed to assist as a co-advisor for the Phi Chapter.

The chapter president, Stephan Spencer, received a \$250 research grant from Chi Beta Phi and will present the results of his research at the national meeting in Elkins, West Virginia on September 23, 2006. His research presentation is titled, "Locating Regions of Complex Zeros of the Mittag-Leffler Function  $E_{\alpha\beta}(z)$  for  $2 < \alpha \leq 3$ ". This is the first representative that Phi Chapter has sent to the national meeting in quite some time. We hope other students follow Stephan's example and that we regularly have students attending in the future.

Submitted by:

John W. Hanneken

Faculty Advisor - Phi Chapter

# Chapter Reports

## ZETA

Chapter report for Sept. 2005 through Sept. 2006.

**Chapter:** Zeta

**Mailing Address:** Chi Beta Phi  
100 Campus Drive  
Davis & Elkins College  
Elkins, WV 26241

**Advisor:** Michelle Mabry

**E-Mail Address:** mabrym@davisandelkins.com

<b>Current Officers:</b>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (if above unsatisfactory)</u>
President	Jenny Sisler	sislerj@davisandelkins.com
Vice-President	Katie MacGregor	katiemacgregor@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth Gertz	StarSpiritM@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Melissa Burky	melissaburky@yahoo.com
Other	Elizabeth Gertz (Historian)	same as above

**Officers for next year if determined:** N/A.

**Current number of members:**

students - 11      faculty - 6      pledges - 0      active alumni - 0

**Frequency of meetings:** Monthly or bi-weekly

**Function or purpose of Meetings:**

chapter business XX      fund raising XX      social XX  
presentations \_\_\_\_\_      conference planning XX      other \_\_\_\_\_

**Presentations, lectures, seminars, etc. attended or as part of chapter meeting:**

Kilowatt Ours by Jeff Barrie (co-sponsored by Chi Beta Phi, Zeta Chapter)

**Activities relative to the Annual Theme:** N/A

**Social Activities of Chapter:**

Pizza Party  
Trip to the Clay Center  
End of year cook-out

**Honors Awarded to Chapter Members:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Honor</u>
Elizabeth Gertz	ACS Junior Chemistry Award R. Puduam Honors Award
Melissa Burky	Charles E. Albert Memorial Award
Katie MacGregor	Biology and Environmental Science Dep. Academic Achievement Award
Nikki Yokum	Biology and Environmental Science Dep. Academic Achievement Award

**Other Chapter Activities:**

Efforts to reactivate a chapter or establish a new one: N/A

Fund raising:

Plant sales

Raffle for Finals Basket

Service to school (include any awards by chapter):

Judging of the Eastern Regional Science Fair / Chi Beta Phi Best Use of Scientific Method for Middle School and High School

Service to community:

Adopt-A-Highway (one in the Fall and one in the Spring)

Trips or other activities:

Clay Center

**Please add any additional information or comments below.**

Chi Beta Phi members attend WVU Summer internships:

Elizabeth Gertz

Rajiu Bhattarai

Jenny Sisler

Sunam Gurung

Melissa Burky

Katie MacGregor

Nikki Yokum

## Report of the President

This is the second year since our decision to move the conference back to the fall and I think it has proven to be a good decision. I have heard of many fewer conflicts. In spite of this, attendance at Conference continues to be problematic. I have done some research and have found this is not unique to our organization. Some organizations have biennial national conferences with smaller regional conferences. Rising cost of travel and increasing demands on faculty and student time limit travel to distant locations.

I continue to search for small colleges and universities for whom Chi Beta Phi might be a good fit. We need to persist with attempts to make contact with colleges and universities. My efforts in Indiana have not been successful largely because of two well-organized, and well-funded, undergraduate research conferences in the state. One of the advantages of Chi Beta Phi is to provide students the opportunity to present their research and with easy access within the state, this makes Chi Beta Phi less attractive for colleges in Indiana. There may be opportunities in other states or regions and we need to continue to pursue expansion. In preparation for this meeting, I heard from the president at Alpha Rho chapter at Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas who asked about regional activities. Although no other chapters exist in Arkansas, at my request she was kind enough to forward a list of small colleges in Arkansas. I have gotten addresses and contact names and will send an invitation letter and information when I return from Conference. This very focused approach may provide better results than earlier attempts.

The website, while very basic in design, allows access to information in a timely fashion. In the near future, I hope to have the help of a new secretary to keep this site updated. I would urge chapters to develop their own sites. I would be happy to have links to those sites and hope they have links to the National webpage. Comments, suggestions, and offers to help with the site are always welcome.

With additional help, it is my goal to upgrade the appearance of *The Record* and to get it in the mail no later than the end of fall semester.

Chi Beta Phi continues to be a recognized affiliate organization with AAAS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The relationship provides additional recognition of Chi Beta Phi as a national organization.

I am encouraged by the increase in presentations and hopefully an increased membership will lead to an increase in research grant funds available and, as a result, more presentations in the future. We need to continue to be open to change so that we can continue to grow the organization in our rapidly changing times. We need to recognize that there are increasing demands on student and faculty time and we must strive to be an organization that provides advantages for its members and then clearly articulates those advantages.

All members, at all levels, should feel free to express their opinion. We will listen carefully to all input. It is only through your feedback that we can continue to grow in ways that strengthen the organization.

Respectfully submitted,

W.J. Pohley  
September 23, 2006

## Report of the Treasurer

This report covers the period from September 2005 to September 2006. Itemized figures of the treasury will be found on the accompanying financial statement.

The treasury remains stable and is still growing somewhat. Any debts have been paid quickly and there are no outstanding debts. The annual report to the IRS has been completed and submitted. The IRS response is that all is in order and we continue our tax-free status. We continue our affiliation as a member of the AAAS. Jewelry and cords remain available from the Treasurer and are still offered tax-free and at cost. There have been increases in prices from Jostens. Cords are now \$6.95 per set and pins are \$24.80. I again recommend the practice of providing jewelry and cords at cost and not for profit.

A major debit item of the past year was the purchase of jewelry and cords to maintain ready availability. Mailing and printing costs are somewhat less than the previous year. Another major debit has been travel reimbursement and awards. The latter debits, however, continue to support our members and our objective of being a science organization.

A major disappointment continues to be the failure of the expansion program. A follow-up letter, after our initial efforts, was sent to all inactive chapters last Spring. No responses have been received. I recommend a consideration, either by this conference or by another means, be made soon to strengthen our membership. The importance of this will be evident in the financial statement. I have also added a page comparing the finances of 2006 with those of the previous year. The Treasurer is quite concerned about the decrease in the income of the past year and our overall net gain. The number of new members is significantly less than in the past several years. New members is the major source of income of Chi Beta Phi. The only factor allowing an overall net gain has been the decrease in disbursements. I will work to continue the latter.

The account at Citizens Bank of Morgantown has been changed. The intention of doing this was announced at the conference of last year. That account had been a "Now Checking" account which, although drawing some interest, had a rather small interest amount of 0.75%. We had considered this as a savings account although it was really not. The account has now been changed to a true Savings Account. The interest drawn will be 1.85% for an increase in earnings of 1.10%.

It continues to be an honor and pleasure to serve as your Treasurer. If so nominated and elected by this conference, I look forward to continue serving Chi Beta Phi. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, your input would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted by C. T. Meadors, September 23, 2006.

## Financial Statement

### September 2005 to September 2006

Citizens Bank, Morgantown, WV (Savings)

September 2005	\$6,869.59
Interest	<u>56.75</u>
September 2006	\$6,926.34

Huntington Bank, Charleston, WV (Checking)

Beginning Balance September 2005 \$28,719.65

New Deposits:

Memberships (91)	2,275.00
Jewelry, cords	<u>663.30</u>
Income Total	2,938.30

Subtotal \$31,657.95

Disbursements:

Checks #1034 – 1046 2,452.16

Closing Balance September 2006 \$29,205.79

**Total Assets as of September 2006: \$36,132.13**

Total Assets as of September 2005 35,589.24

**Net Gain: \$542.89**

Respectfully submitted by C. T. Meadors  
September 23, 2006

## Financial Comparison: 2005 and 2006

	<u>2005</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Checking:</b>				
New Deposits:				
Memberships	(206) \$5,150.00	(91) 2,275.00	(-115) 2,875.00	
Jewelry/Cords	3,924.00	663.30	- 3260.70	
Total Income	9,074.00	2,938.30	- 6,135.70	
Disbursements:	4,559.36	2,452.16	- 2,107.20	
Closing Balance:	28,719.65	29,205.79	+486.14	
<b>Total Assets:</b>	35,589.24	36,132.13	+542.89	
Overall Net Gain:	4,526.34	542.89	<b><u>-3983.45</u></b>	

## **Committee Reports**

### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

#### Host Chapter Award

Zeta Chapter  
Davis and Elkins College  
Elkins, WV

#### Blackwell Distance Award

Epsilon Chapter  
University of Charleston  
Charleston, WV

#### Outstanding Chapter Award

Alpha Sigma Chapter  
Molloy College  
Rockville Centre, NY

#### National Key Award

Jennifer Sisler  
Zeta Chapter  
Davis & Elkins College  
Elkins, WV

#### Most Improved Chapter Award

Zeta Chapter  
Davis & Elkins College  
Elkins, WV

### **PRESENTATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### Best Presentation Awards

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Sally Gallagher, Kappa Sigma Chapter, The University of Mary Washington,  
Fredericksburg, VA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Stephan Spencer, Phi Chapter, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Jessica Frankel, Epsilon Chapter, University of Charleston, Charleston, WV

### **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

The slate presented and unanimously approved was:

President — Michelle Mabry, Zeta Chapter

Vice President — Bill Pohley, Alpha Delta Chapter

Treasurer — C.T. Meadors, Epsilon Chapter

Secretary — Paul Peck, Alpha Iota Chapter

Historian / Marshall — Crystal Bennett, Epsilon Chapter

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

### **THE EFFECTS OF AN INVASIVE TREE ON THE BIODIVERSITY AND BIOMASS OF UNDERSTORY PLANTS**

**Sally Gallagher, Dr. Alan Griffith**  
**The University of Mary Washington**

Invasive plant species have been shown to cause many problems to local plant ecosystems, including a decrease in local biodiversity. *Ailanthus altissima* is an invasive plant found across the United States. Lab results show *A. altissima* is allelopathic; the toxin, Ailanthone, produced by *A. altissima* plant material, prevents other plants from germinating or growing. Prior research conducted with this particular invasive tree has been carried out in laboratories, making a field study necessary to better understand the effects of *A. altissima*. The purpose of this research was to determine the impact of *A. altissima* on understory plant biodiversity.

To determine the effects of *A. altissima* on local biodiversity, four large stands of the invasive tree were located in the greater Fredericksburg area. Six 1.0m<sup>2</sup> subplots were randomly chosen under the canopy of each *A. altissima* stand. An equal number of subplots were randomly chosen under the canopy of an adjacent stand of native trees. Plant species richness, species abundance, and species percent covers were recorded for each of the subplots. In order to see if one group is more affected than another, plants were divided into five functional groups (vines, trees, shrubs, herbaceous dicots, and grasses/sedges/rushes).

Species richness was unaffected by the presence of *A. altissima* as a canopy species. Both species abundances and species percent cover were higher under the invasive tree canopy than under the non-*A. altissima* canopy cover. These results may be explained by the large count of vines growing under the *Ailanthus* cover. Vine, herbaceous dicot, and tree functional groups showed significant differences between the two canopy types. Vines and herbaceous dicot groups both had higher abundances and percent covers under the *A. altissima* canopy than the non-*A. altissima* canopy. Because vines are able to spread into areas that have little competition for light, their abundant populations could be skewing the total abundance and cover data towards higher numbers under *A. altissima*. Tree saplings (height < 1m) exhibited a marginally significant difference between the two canopies with more trees growing under the non-*A. altissima* plots. Tree seedlings were not expected to succeed under *A. altissima* canopies; this observation agrees with the stated hypothesis. Further analysis will determine if vine species are causing the total abundance and percent cover to be higher under *A. altissima* stands.

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

### **HIGH-FAT DIET REDUCES WATER CONSUMPTION AND URINE OUTPUT IN LEAN ZUCKER RATS**

**Jessica Frankel<sup>1</sup>, Sabrena Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Ryan Morrison<sup>2</sup>,  
Kan Huang<sup>2</sup>, William McCumbee<sup>2</sup>, Elsa Mangiarua<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Charleston

<sup>2</sup>Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall University, Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology

In the United States, obesity is approaching epidemic proportions with more than thirty percent of adults being obese and sixteen percent of children being overweight. Research models, in which obesity is induced by feeding rats a high-fat diet, have been developed to investigate mechanisms leading to the obesity-associated diseases. Since preliminary evidence states that eating a moderately high-fat diet has been shown to decrease water consumption in experimental animals, one objective of this study was to determine the time required for a high-fat diet to reduce water consumption and urine output. One possible explanation that could explain the decrease in water intake is that the high-fat diet inhibits activity in the center of the brain that regulates thirst (thirst center). The thirst center is located in a region of the brain called the diencephalon. Twenty-four and 48 hour measurements of water consumption and urine output were obtained for rats being fed standard rat chow (control diet) and a high-fat diet while housed in metabolic cages. When water consumption was significantly reduced for two consecutive days by rats on the high-fat diet, six rats in each group were sacrificed. The diencephalon was removed and plasma was collected and separated. For an additional three weeks, the remaining rats were placed in metabolic cages weekly to measure their water and food consumption, urine output and body weight. The nNOS protein content of the diencephalon of rats on the high-fat and control diets were measured by western blot analysis; plasma leptin levels were also measured in these animals. Results showed that (1) This decrease in water consumption preceded the decrease in urine output, suggesting that decreased urine output is a reflection of diminished drinking behavior; (2) Lean Zucker rats fed a moderately high-fat diet gained significantly more weight than age- and gender-matched lean rats on a control diet; (3) There was an increase in leptin levels in the plasma of rats fed a moderately high-fat diet compared to rats on standard rat chow; and, (4) Western blots indicated that there was no difference in nNOS protein expression in the diencephalon based on dietary content.

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

### **PHYLOGENETIC STUDIES OF BAT-POLLINATED FLOWERS IN BIGNONIACEAE**

**Amanda Spriggs (University of Charleston)**

Mentors – Dr. Michelle Zjhra and Dr. James Hudson  
Graduate Student – Andriena Fuentes  
Undergraduate student – Pete Way  
Georgia Southern University

One of the best examples of evolutionary pattern is convergent evolution. Convergent evolution is the adaptive evolution of superficially similar structures in unrelated species subjected to similar environments. An important issue in the study of convergence is to understand the relationship between adaptive traits and environmental selection. The pollination syndrome concept suggests that flowers are sufficiently specialized for pollination by a particular type of animal or insect. Convergent floral evolution in the form of pollination syndromes is essentially the adaptive significance of floral traits in relationship to pollinators. These floral traits are signals to the pollinator and, therefore, pollinator perception and response is fundamental to understanding the evolution of such an interaction. One approach to understanding this type of convergence has been to describe characteristics (shape, size, color, odor, reward) associated with a particular pollinator. This project deals with the evolution of the bat-pollination syndrome in the pantropical woody family Bignoniaceae. To examine this, a phylogenetic approach was used to investigate the evolution of phenomena involved in plant-animal interactions. PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) was utilized to amplify DNA template and PCR products were visualized in 1.2% Agarose gel through electrophoresis. Positive PCR products were sent to be sequenced. Once sequenced products are returned, we will compare the pollination biology and floral signals of bat-pollinated and non-bat-pollinated species pairs within and across clades of Bignoniaceae in order to place the study in a phylogenetic context and examine the evolutionary ability of the system.

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

### **EFFECTS OF SECONDARY SUCCESSION ON PLANT AND SOIL PROCESSES**

**Crystal Bennett (University of Charleston)**

Mentors: Dr. Howard Epstein, Ryan Emanuel, Jin Wang, and Lixin Wang  
University of Virginia, Blandy Experimental Farm

The abandonment of land, change of land use and other environmental manipulations or disturbances can lead to ecosystem succession. Succession is the gradual process of ecosystem development resulting from a change in the community and leading to a stabilized ecosystem (Odum, 1969). The interactions between plants and soils change throughout successional stages. Numerous studies have focused on above-ground processes and a reasonable understanding of their dynamics throughout succession has been achieved. In this project, the effects of secondary succession on plant and soil processes, specifically root biomass, nutrient cycling, mycorrhizal associations, and photosynthetic machinery were studied. The goals of this research were to gain a better understanding of these processes and how they change throughout succession, and to relate these processes to each other to create a larger picture of how plants and soils change over successional progression. Root biomass was not significantly affected by age or species but the trend seen was an increase in biomass with age. When comparing mycorrhizal colonization rates with total N flux, a weak positive relationship was found. Soil %N, leaf %N, soil C:N and total N flux were all positively affected by age of field. Over succession, more nitrogen was available for roots to take up, therefore, root uptake of nitrogen increased and the amount of nitrogen in the leaves also increased. No significance was found for NDVI with age or species. However, when plotting NDVI versus leaf %N, a possible threshold for NDVI could be seen. This suggests that if environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, and wind speed were controlled, a significant positive relationship between NDVI and leaf %N may have been seen.

## Presentations, Abstracts

### **A MODEL SYSTEM FOR STUDYING THE EFFECT OF A-SYNUCLEIN AND OTHER AGGREGATING PROTEINS ON THE LEAKINESS OF THE ROUGH ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM**

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$\alpha$ -synuclein, a small aggregating protein, has been directly tied to the etiology of Parkinson's disease. Previous studies have demonstrated that protofibrils of  $\alpha$ -synuclein may be the most detrimental aggregate of the protein; however, the method by which they impair the cell is currently unidentified. We propose that these protofibrils of  $\alpha$ -synuclein interfere with the ribosome-bound translocon-complex of the Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum (RER), thereby rendering the RER more permeable to calcium and other molecules and sensitizing the cell to both internal and environmental stresses. The primary objective of our laboratory has been to investigate the ability of aggregating proteins to increase the permeability of the RER.

Polyhistidine is a small, synthetic protein that aggregates in a manner that might be similar to the aggregation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein. It might serve as model protein for our experiments. Previous experiments from this laboratory have demonstrated that polyhistidine can increase the permeability of intact RER membranes in CHO-K1 cells. The central hypothesis of our study was to test whether polyhistidine would have a similar effect on purified RER microsomes prepared from CHO-S cells.

We observed that polyhistidine increased the permeability of CHO-S RER microsomes in a manner very similar to what we previously observed for intact RER membranes. The effect of polyhistidine on RER microsomes was dose-dependent. Furthermore, a decrease of basal permeability and a complete inhibition of the polyhistidine-dependent increase in permeability was evident in both the intact RER membranes and RER microsomes following treatment with EDTA. This suggests that EDTA altered the composition of the membrane, with the most likely scenario that the ribosomes were stripped away by the EDTA. This interpretation is supported by our observation that the polyhistidine-dependent increase in permeability was regained following addition of ribosomes to the EDTA-treated sample.

Our study demonstrated that intact RER membranes and purified RER microsomes can both be used effectively to measure changes in the permeability of the RER produced by aggregating proteins, with each membrane preparation being advantageous in certain circumstances. Our investigation of the increase in permeability produced by aggregates of polyhistidine provide insight into the likely effects of other aggregating proteins, such as  $\alpha$ -synuclein. We are currently working on expressing and purifying  $\alpha$ -synuclein in bacteria. The next step of our project is to conduct similar permeability assays using the purified protein.

## Presentations, Abstracts

### EXPRESSION & PURIFICATION OF RECOMBINANT NOVEL TESTIS-SPECIFIC MT13 ANTIGEN FOR CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

**Jessica Hammons<sup>1,3</sup>, Dr. Rajesh Naz, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>, Rajendran Sellamuthu, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>**

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World human population is exponentially increasing each year. Also, one of the major public health crises is unwanted pregnancies, especially in the teenage population, despite all modern contraceptive techniques. There is obviously a great need for a “novel contraceptive method that is highly effective and safe, is inexpensive, is non-steroidal, intercourse-independent, has a prolonged duration of action, is rapidly reversible and easily accessible, requires infrequent administration, and can be used privately” as quoted by Dr. Rajesh Naz, Ph.D. His lab is involved in identifying sperm-specific antigens/genes that can be used for contraceptive vaccine development. There are now seven genes identified and, in particular, a highly testis-specific antigen was delineated in the mouse model and designated as MT13.

The progress has led to promising outcomes. Recently, the research entailed expressing and purifying this recombinant MT13 protein and investigating the immuno-contraceptive effects in the mouse model. To do this, MT13 cDNA was replicated into double-stranded DNA using PCR and subcloned into pGEX 4T-2 expression vector. The protein was then purified with agarose beads using affinity chromatography. The recombinant MT13 protein was then injected into female Balb/c mice four different times over the span of three months. After bleeding the mice, the samples were examined for the antibody response generated after immunization using the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and western blot technique. The results from the ELISA showed high antibody titers in all of the twelve mice immunized, indicating great antibody response. Through the western blot, the mouse serum revealed specific binding to the recombinant MT13 antigen. By mating with male mice, the contraceptive effect was analyzed. Many, but not all, of the female mice exhibited the desired contraceptive effect of the vaccine and did not get pregnant. With further analysis, it is thought that an additional booster injection is required for total effect. *This research was supported by grant HD24425 from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and grant P20 RR16477 from the National Center for Research Resources awarded to the West Virginia Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence.*

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

### **LOCATING REGIONS OF COMPLEX ZEROS OF THE MITTAG-LEFLER FUNCTION**

**Dr. John Hanneken, Trenton R. Ensley, Stephan T. Spencer  
University of Memphis**

The Mittag-Leffler function  $E_{\alpha,\beta}(z)$ , which is a generalization of the exponential function, arises frequently in the solutions of differential and integral equations of fractional order. Moreover, the zeros of  $E_{\alpha,\beta}(z)$  for some values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the eigenvalues of fractional differential operators. Consequently, knowledge of their zeros and their distribution is of fundamental importance. This work focuses on the distribution of zeros in the region where the Mittag-Leffler function possesses an infinite number of real zeros and a finite number of complex zeros and is restricted to the range  $2 < \alpha \leq 3$  and  $\beta \leq 14$ .

## Presentations, Abstracts

### A CASE FOR PRO-OXIDATIVE MITOCHONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION IN FALS-LINKED SOD1 MUTATIONS

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Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a rapidly progressive neurological disease that causes degeneration of nerve cells in the region of the brain and spinal cord that controls muscles. A mutation to the gene encoding copper-zinc superoxide dismutase (SOD1) causes ALS through an unknown mechanism.

Numerous studies in the past have proven that the neurodegenerative diseases such as ALS, including various cells expressing mutant SOD1 proteins, have decreased mitochondrial function. Other studies have also indicated that the increased production of superoxide and peroxide contributes to the pathogenesis of ALS. In our laboratory, we are using a model system of yeast (*S. Cerevisian*) that express wild type and mutant human SOD1 proteins. In previous research from our lab, we have shown that there is a decrease in electron transport within the mitochondria from yeast that express the mutant human SOD1 proteins compared to the normal human SOD1 protein. We now hypothesize that this decreased electron transport results in the increased production of superoxide.

Aconitase activity was used to measure the amount of superoxide produced as a byproduct of electron transport in isolated mitochondria, with fumarase activity measured as a control treated with either succinate or ubiquinol. Our results showed a trend of a decrease in aconitase activity when comparing the treated mitochondria with the controls. This led us to believe that superoxide was produced. Fumarase activity was unchanged, suggesting that the decrease in aconitase activity was due to the production of superoxide. We also measured the amount of peroxide produced because peroxide is a more stable product of superoxide; when more peroxide was detected, more superoxide was produced. The data collected proves that the mutant SOD1 proteins have a trend toward increased production of peroxide. These results support our hypothesis that mutant strains show an increased amount of superoxide production because peroxide production increased in the strain expressing mutant strain A4V. We have also treated the mitochondria with various inhibitors to determine which electron transport protein is leaking electrons to allow the production of superoxide. The results on this test are inconclusive but it is likely the leakage is coming from complex III. *Funded by grant P20 RR16477 from the National Center for Research Resources awarded to the West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence and in part by a grant from the ACS Association.*

## Presentations, Abstracts

### EVALUATION OF ANTI-CORTACTIN PY421 AND PS405 ANTIBODIES

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Cortactin is an F-actin binding protein which plays a role in cell migration, adhesion, invasion, endocytosis and cell morphogenesis. It is enriched in cortical actin structures including lamellipodia and membrane ruffles of motile cells. Cortactin is a Src substrate and is phosphorylated by other protein tyrosine kinases involved in cell motility. Cortactin is phosphorylated by Src at tyrosine residues 421, 470 and 486 and by the serine/threonine kinase Erk at serine residues 405 and 418. Phosphorylation on these residues in the C- terminus upon stimulation by extra cellular signals has been found to be a requirement for cell movement and metastasis. Cortactin has also been found to be over expressed in several types of human cancers and in tumor-derived cell lines. Over-expression, as well as, tyrosine phosphorylation of cortactin has been reported to enhance cell migration, invasion, and metastasis. Previous studies have shown that inhibition of phosphorylation or over expression of phosphorylation incompetent (tyrosine to phenylalanine and serine to alanine) mutants hinder cell migration and metastasis formation. The goal of this study is to produce antibodies that can specifically recognize the Src targeted Y421 and the Erk targeted S405. The antibodies were produced in conjunction with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Biochemicals to recognize phosphorylation in human cortactin at tyrosine residue 421 and Serine residue 405. Epitope-tagged recombinant expression vectors containing the human cortactin cDNA and phosphorylation null mutants (Y421F, Y421F- Y470F-Y486F, S405A and S405A-S418A) were transfected into the 1483 head and neck squamous carcinoma cell line, and recombinant proteins were assayed for antibody specificity by Western blotting following immunoprecipitation. The data show that the antibodies bound not only to wild-type cortactin but also to Y421F and S405A containing mutants. Our results indicate that the anti-pY421 and pS405 antibodies in their current form are not specific for their phosphorylation-state amino acid residues. Further purification of the antibodies as well as repetition of the experimental procedures will be required to produce antibodies with the appropriate specificity for each targeted phosphoamino acid. Once validated, these reagents will provide valuable tools for prognostic and diagnostic evaluation of patient tumor samples. *This research was supported by grant P20 RR16477 from the National Center for Research Resources awarded to the West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence, and by NIH grants DE014578 and RR16440.*

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

# **SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SIZE-CONTROLLED GOLD NANOPARTICLES FOR BIOLOGICAL APPLICATION**

**Elizabeth G. Gertz, Huaqing Li**

Supervised by: Niangiang (Nick) Wu  
Dept. of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
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Presented by: Elizabeth G. Gertz (Zeta Chapter) at the Chi Beta Phi National Conference

With the increase in research of nanotechnology in recent years, many doors in many different fields have opened. This includes the medical field as well. The material that we are looking at using in biological applications is gold (Au). Because of its stability under physiological conditions within living systems, gold is a great candidate for biological application. For the purpose of cancer treatment, gold nanoparticles can be used to deliver DNA to the cancer cells. DNA can be attached as a way to kill the cells or as a way to find the cancer cells inside of the body. For this purpose, we first needed to be able to produce gold nanoparticles in an effective way with a size range of 15nm to 30nm. Therefore, once an effective method of production was found, there would be the need to control the size of the particle made. This could be done by finding the right ratio of chemicals. By increasing or decreasing the reducing agent and/or the capping agent, the size of the particles would also increase or decrease in relation. Once the ratio was found, then the procedures could move on to attaching the DNA and the process for delivery into a living system.

## **Presentations, Abstracts**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC STUDY AIDS FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS**

**J. Robinson, M.D.  
University of Charleston**

A popular way of studying is to use flash cards. Hard copy flash cards tend to be bulky and seem primitive in today's high tech society. Recent advances producing smaller and smaller devices that hold computer memory make electronic flash cards extremely portable.

Very simple flash cards can be made using PowerPoint. By simply asking a question on one slide and answering it on the next slide, students can go to view show and with the click of a mouse can proceed quickly. Pictures can be added quite easily to develop flash cards for identification.

However, a more sophisticated set of cards can be developed by using Word 2003. These cards will allow for multiple questions on each slide and having each answer covered to be revealed one at a time. In the html format, proceeding from one slide to the next is rapid. The most surprising aspect, however, is that this method is not nearly as labor intensive as one would imagine.

Below is the procedure for producing these slides. The procedure set forth gives us the combination of producing quality slides in the least amount of time.

#### Step 1 – Develop the template

Under create a document, click on 'On my computer' under templates. In the ensuing slide, click on template and web page.

#### Step 2 – Add drop-down boxes

If web tools are not already present, click on 'tools' and proceed to 'customize'. Under tool bars, click on 'web tools'. On this tool bar, click on 'design mode'. Now you are ready to add drop-down boxes. Five to six boxes are optimal. The boxes will appear in a row on top of the page. To move them to the left side of the page in a column, simply put the cursor just in front of the boxes and hit enter. Space them out until the line marked 'bottom of form' is at the bottom of the screen.

### Step 3 – Placing information in the drop-down boxes

On the tool bar, click on 'properties'. The properties box will have a listing for each drop-down box. At this point, indicate the question. I recommend using a different colored arrow for each question. On the 'DisplayValues', type in the appropriate arrow such as 'green arrow'. Next, on 'MultiSelect', click on 'true'. Now, the same information in 'DisplayValues' should appear in the 'Values' box. To add the appropriate answer, place a semicolon beside the term used in 'DisplayValues' and type in the answer. Click anywhere on the page and that term should be transferred to 'Values' as well.

### Step 4 – Add the pictures

There are numerous ways to add the picture. The procedure described is not only the fastest way but also insures no changes will be made. Scan a picture into word and shrink the picture to cover about ¼ of the page. Add arrows from 'autoshape' and place and color appropriately. Print the picture and scan it into the slide. Shrink the picture to the appropriate size and double click on the slide. On the box that appears, click on 'layout'. Click on the box 'in front of text' and then click on 'center' and apply. Move the picture accordingly.

### Step 5 – Add hyperlinks

To tie the slides together, place the cursor under the last box to the left hand margin of the page. Under 'insert' on the main tool bar, click on hyperlink. A box will appear. Under text to display, add the appropriate direction (e.g. previous, next, etc.). In the menu, choose the slide you want to tie into and click on it. It should appear now in the 'address' box. Click apply.

## Chi Beta Phi Chapters and Advisors 2006

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No	Alpha Tau	1984	Rust College Dept. of Science & Math Holly Springs, MS 38635	IV	Dr. Sana Sise	(601) 252-4661
Yes	Alpha Upsilon	1984	Shenandoah University Dept. of Natural Science 1460 University Dr. Winchester, VA 22601	I	Dr. Juanita Emswiler	(540) 665-4547 Fax (540) 665-4644 <a href="mailto:jemswile@su.edu">jemswile@su.edu</a>